

Remarks/ Arguments

In response to the Office Action mailed June 28, 2004, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the objections to the specification and the claims.

Claims 1 - 16 remain.

Claims 1, 14, 15 and 16 are being amended.

Claims 8 and 13 have been cancelled.

Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claims the subject matter Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have corrected the lack of antecedent basis in Claim 13, which has now been incorporated into amended Claim 14 above.

Claims 1 – 7, and 9 – 12, and 15 – 16 stand rejected in view of the prior art. However, Claim 8, and Claim 14, following amendment to correct the lack of antecedent basis in Claim 13, stand objected – to, as being based on a rejected base claim, but otherwise being allowable.

Independent Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to include the features of former objected-to Claim 8. Claim 8 has been cancelled. Claim 14 has been amended to include the features of former (un – amended) independent Claim 1, along with the features of former Claim 13. Claim 13 has been cancelled. Finally, independent Claim 16 has been amended to include the features of objected – to Claim 14 and Claim 13.

Remaining Claims 1 – 7, 9 – 12, and 14 – 16 should now be allowable.

No new matter has been added; the claims have been merely amended to more particularly claim the subject matter Applicants believe is inventive. Applicants respectfully submit that the Claims as they now stand are patentably distinct over the art cited during the prosecution thereof.

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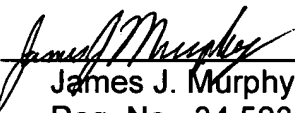
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Applicants respectfully request a First Month Extension of Time to File this Response. Enclosed with this paper is Form PTO/SB/22 with Extension Fees in the amount of \$110.00 as reflected on the PTO/SB/17 Fee Transmittal.

With the addition of no new claims, no additional filing fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 20-0821 of Thompson & Knight LLP.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this paper or the present application in general, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (214) 969 - 1749.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: October 18, 2004